



The Steeple



A Publication of St. Paul United Methodist Church
of Rosewood Heights, Illinois

JULY 2026



To the People of St. Paul United Methodist Church,

Isaiah 14:27

**27` `For the LORD of hosts has planned, and who can frustrate it?
And as for His stretched-out hand, who can turn it back?**

The glory of the Lord be upon you this day. May you feel and receive the love of HIS presence. It is that time of the month when we reflect on what happened in June and what we will be looking forward to this month onward. Truly, the Lord of Hosts remained faithful, gracious, and loving. There are no words to describe how everything works for God's glory. Just to mention, we had a good turnout during our combined VBS activity; East Alton and St Paul working together was a beautiful sight. And then came our Annual Conference held in Peoria, where all clergy and lay members met with our IGRC Bishops headed by Bishop Alan Ballard and Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai.

The gathering was very successful but challenging. In reality, all of our churches are struggling with many things in ministry, like revitalizing worship, bringing people to God, sharing ideas on how to bring children, youth, and young adults to the church, and continuing their parents' and grandparents' legacy. We also had churches that had to be closed due to financial issues and declining membership. Our conference of 5 districts is now down to 4 districts. All of these things were called to be prayed for and, most of all, rededicated to God. But the event was full of hope and encouragement from keynote speakers and guest preachers. Music also played a very important role in our everyday worship, and for that, we give honor and glory to our God. In one of the sessions in the plenary, your Pastor Ed was recognized and called forward to be in the roster of graduates to have completed the Local Pastor Course of Study Program. Now, that was one of my highlights in this recent Annual Conference 2026. After years of study and at the same time being appointed to a local church, I never thought I would finish the course. But God is good all the time. And all the time God is good.

The bottom line: In the closing ceremony, all pastors, lay members, and delegates were appointed to continue the work of the Lord, go and reach out beyond the 4 corners of the church building, and proclaim the message of the risen Christ with the anointing power of the Holy Spirit. We were told never to look at the big waves and strong winds of any storm. We were told to focus on JESUS. The "Rivers of grace" of God is to **Love Boldly**. This theme alone is already a challenge. Right? But with this theme, we were also reminded to **Serve Joyfully** and **Lead Courageously**. In **Isaiah 14:27**, the Lord declared His plans. There is no one on earth or in heaven who could disrupt the glorious purpose of our God, for when His stretched-out hand has been fully extended, who can turn it back? We are blessed that the Lord will be with us always. Have a great July and Happy Independence Day!! God Bless, and God Bless America!!

Blessings to all and until the next issue -- In Christ Alone,
Edward Granadosin **Pastor of East Alton 1st UMC and St. Paul UMC**





OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOUS!

- **Our deepest sympathy** goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the family & friends of **Lawrence “Larry” Ballard (86)**, member; husband of Lola Ballard; father of Lisa (David) Betts and Todd (Laura) Ballard; grandfather to 6 grandchildren; great-grandfather to 3 great-grandchildren (with a 4th one on the way) (see obit on page 5). **May everyone who is touched by loss know God’s peace through it all.**
 - On **Graduate Sunday, June 28th**, we celebrated the accomplishments of these our wonderful graduates: **Adelynn Spurgeon**, daughter of Ryan & Jenny Spurgeon and granddaughter of Mark & Deb Mayer, graduated 8th Grade from Trimpe Middle School. Congratulations! **Edith Mayer**, daughter of Jason & Lindsey Mayer and granddaughter of Mark & Deb Mayer, graduated 8th Grade from Columbia Middle School. Congratulations! **Dylan Brueggeman**, son of Kyle & Emily Brueggeman and grandson of Randy & Joyce Brueggeman, graduated 12th grade from Edwardsville High School. Dylan will be going to Missouri S&T in Rolla this fall to study Engineering for Semi-Conductors. Congratulations! **Nicholas Dawson**, son of Steve & Sarah Dawson and grandson of Jim & Anita Dawson, graduated 12th grade from Edwardsville High School. Nicholas will be going to St. Louis University in August. Congratulations! **Grace Oertle**, daughter of Steve & Jill Oertle and granddaughter of Randy & Mindy McLain, graduated 12th grade from Edwardsville High School. Grace will be going to Ball State in Indiana this fall. Congratulations! **Hayley Schlemer**, daughter of Mike & Bobbie Jean Schlemer and granddaughter of Bob & Gina Brown, graduated 12th grade from Roxana High School. Congratulations! **Hayley Scroggins & Jacey Scroggins**, twin daughters of Brian & Christy Scroggins and granddaughters of Mark & Sandy Scroggins, graduated 12th grade from Evansville, IN High School. Congratulations!
- If we missed anyone, please, be sure to let the church office know! Thank you!**
- Congratulations to **Kate Garrison** who received her varsity letter at the Roxana High School Softball Banquet!



PRAYER: Remember to pray for the group of folks with Team Honduras as they prepare to go to Honduras July 19-August 1. Pray for their safety, for their ministry, for their personal health, and pray that many will come to know our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ through what they do. **-Pastor Deb & Joe Hoertel**

THANK YOU: Thank you for your support of VBS! We appreciate you folks combining with us to make this happen! Thanks to all who helped with VBS...it does take many hands! Thank you and God Bless! **-Care Team of EAFUMC**

THANK YOU: Thank you to the entire church family for your visits, cards and prayers during our dad’s illness and at his passing. He loved you all and considered you his family. The celebration of dad’s life was an absolutely beautiful service from Pastor Ed’s words to the music and finally the luncheon afterwards and we are grateful to all who offered their time. Lastly, we appreciate the many generous donations to St. Paul in dad’s memory. Your kindness, comfort and support mean more than we can express. **-The Tom Voorhees Family**



WORSHIP UNDER THE TREES
ON SUNDAYS IN THE CHURCH
AMPHITHEATER

8:45 a.m.

CONTINUES - WEATHER PERMITTING

(In case of extreme weather the service is held in the sanctuary!)

HYMN SING

Sunday, July 26th at 3:00 p.m.

@ St. Paul UMC!

Please, plan to come sing some of your favorite hymns, and enjoy the music of Rayford & Martha Raby, and Pastor Ed Granadosin! It all begins in the sanctuary and then moves outside to our park for:

FAMILY FUN NIGHT!

There will be hot dogs, beverages, chips, & desserts plus activities & yard games! Bring your family, friends, & lawn chairs!! 4:30-6:30 p.m.



St. Paul Sunday Service in **JULY** 8:45 a.m.

St. Paul UMC is part of a two-point charge with East Alton First UMC. Each congregation has one service on Sundays and Pastor Ed serves as the pastor in both places. The service at St. Paul UMC begins at **8:45 a.m.** The St. Paul UMC service is **LIVE STREAMED** online! You are able to go to our **Facebook Page** and click on a link to watch it as it happens. You will also be able to watch it on **Youtube.com** starting with a search for **St Paul UMC 1167**. You are also welcome to attend the service at East Alton First UMC which begins at **10:15 a.m.** if you cannot get here at the earlier time. Please, keep both congregations in your prayers as we work together to serve the Lord.

Thank you!



4th: HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

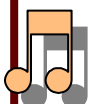


5th: Outdoor Worship in the Park continues! 6th Sunday after Pentecost!

Communion Today. Scriptures: *Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17 or Psalm 72; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30*

12th: 7th Sunday after Pentecost! Scriptures: *Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112 or Psalm 25; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*

19th: 8th Sunday after Pentecost! Scriptures: *Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-2, 23-24; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43*



26th: Hymn Sing Sunday & Family Fun Night! 9th Sunday after Pentecost!

Scriptures: *Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52*

Weather permitting, we will worship in the Amphitheater every Sunday through the first Sunday in September!

Adult Sunday Classes

- ⇒ Wesley Sunday School Class After the Service in the Parlor!
- ⇒ Adult Bible Study Sunday School Class After the Service in the Main Hall Classroom!

WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN A CLASS!!



BIBLE STUDY!

Bible Study is on most Tuesdays, at 11a.m. !

~Pastor Ed~





We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...



Lawrence Richard "Larry" Ballard, 86, passed away Thursday, June 18, 2026 at Christian Hospital. Born Nov. 2, 1939 in Medora, he was a son of Edwin & Mary Louise (Logan) Ballard.

A veteran of the U.S. Army, Larry worked 44 years as a rigger for Laclede Steel and later Alton Steel Companies. He was a longtime member of St. Paul United Methodist Church in Rosewood Heights, and was an avid NASCAR fan. Larry definitely had opinions about things and was more than willing to argue about them, even if no one disagreed.

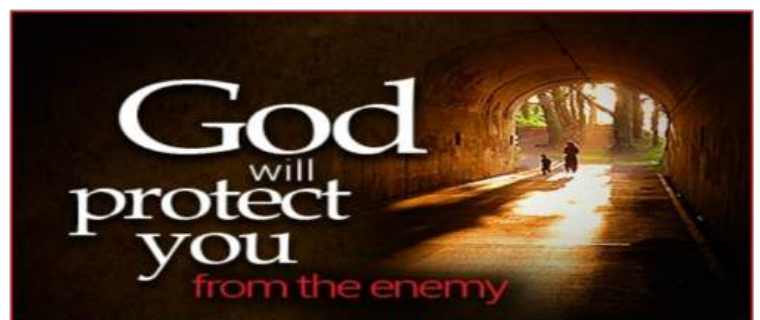
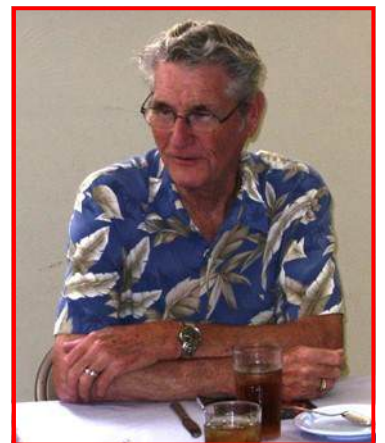
He married Lola Mae Funk at the Batchtown Methodist Church June 24, 1961. Together they built a strong and wonderful marriage that has lasted 65 years. They endured tough times and celebrated good times, always at each other's side.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two children, Lisa (David) Betts of Worden and Todd (Laura) Ballard of Moro. Grandpa was only a phone call away for his grandchildren, Hannah (Luke) Settle, Addie (Cory) Howard, Tanner Betts, Caleb Betts, Autumn (Billy) Carter, and Drey Ballard, and he was "Grandpa O" to his three great-grandchildren, Eliza, Emersyn, and Lorelei, with a fourth on the way.

He is also survived by two sisters, Sandy Hamilton of Rancho Cucamonga, CA and Martha Alvarado of Pomona, CA.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Carol Ann Ballard; and a brother, Ronald Ballard.

Larry has been such an important part of St. Paul UMC and we are going to really miss him. Please, remember to lift up his family in your prayers as they journey on without him.





JULY BIRTHDAYS

“Before you were born, I set you apart for a special work!”

01-Jul Layne Chester
 01-Jul Marjorie Cranmer
 01-Jul Terry Poston
 02-Jul Mark Bacus
 02-Jul Steve Campbell
 02-Jul Maggie Funke
 02-Jul Taylor Rich
 03-Jul Ruth Rawson
 04-Jul Terri Fincher
 04-Jul Brynleigh Mormino
 04-Jul Peyton Mormino
 05-Jul Colton Bourne
 05-Jul Zoe Hart
 06-Jul Phil Acton
 06-Jul Jordan Brown
 06-Jul Luke Campbell
 06-Jul Jim Hickerson
 07-Jul Alex Ford
 08-Jul Nate Ford
 08-Jul Carol Russell
 08-Jul Stella Sims
 09-Jul Deb Mayer
 10-Jul Drew Standefer
 10-Jul Ella Toner
 10-Jul Emma Toner

11-Jul Clayton Bartony
 11-Jul Chancey Sims
 12-Jul Matthew Hamlin
 14-Jul Carter Hendricks
 15-Jul Emma Harper
 15-Jul Jaymie Voorhees
 17-Jul Donna Redden
 18-Jul Alysia Bailey
 18-Jul Sarah Griffin
 19-Jul Cathy Cameron
 21-Jul Connie Martin
 22-Jul Chris Challandes
 22-Jul Cory Crandall
 22-Jul Dell Demond
 22-Jul Daniel Emerick
 22-Jul Evan Spurgeon
 23-Jul Kynlee Bunt
 23-Jul Diane Ford
 23-Jul Donovan Hale

24-Jul Kathy Bunt
 24-Jul Chris Cameron
 24-Jul Anna McLain
 24-Jul Tony Wood
 26-Jul Kathy Crews
 27-Jul Giuliana Sims
 28-Jul Caleb Betts
 28-Jul Ashlyn Birmingham
 28-Jul Marie Brown
 28-Jul Addison Lusicic
 28-Jul Maddox Parker
 28-Jul Adam Phelps
 28-Jul Kristen Toner
 29-Jul Randy McLain
 30-Jul Tim Plummer
 31-Jul Lindsey Williams

JULY ANNIVERSARIES



01-Jul Matt & Christina Johnson
 05-Jul Don & Vivian Sands-Franklin
 06-Jul Glenn & Paula Hubbard
 08-Jul Paul & Gerry Ward
 09-Jul Greg & Kathy Crews

09-Jul Paul & Brandy Mormino
 13-Jul Josh & Amy Gowan
 15-Jul Ryan & Jenny Spurgeon
 22-Jul Robert & Gina Brown
 23-Jul Rick & Amy Helmkamp

WE NEED UPDATES FOR THE CHURCH DIRECTORY!

Please contact the church office if you (OR A FAMILY MEMBER) have had a **change of address, phone number, or email address since the last printing!** We have begun the process of completing a new Church Directory! **Please, check the Workbook in the Entryway once it shows up!** Thank you for your help!



JUNE Stewardship

Budget Offering:	6/1/2026 thru 6/30/2026	\$10,426.00
Designated Giving:	6/1/2026 thru 6/30/2026	1,664.10
	Capital Improvements	310.00
	Loose Change	49.10
	Flowers	10.00
	Helping Hands	100.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	50.00
	Parking Lot Work	180.00
	Upper Room Donations	4.00
	VBS	25.00
	Reimbursed Conference Exp	71.00
	Memorials	865.00
	Online Giving -General Fund	351.50
Total:		\$12,441.60



An important reminder... there are several ways to send your tithes & offerings if you cannot be here. You can send through the U.S. Mail, through Bill Pay with your bank or Credit Union, through our website's Online Giving (VANCO), and by bringing it to the church during the week. If you plan to bring it by, please, call first to make sure we know you are on the way. Thank you so much!

**DEADLINE FOR
AUGUST 2026
STEEPLE,
Monday, July 20th!**



MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

JULY's Loose Change Project is the Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House in East St. Louis. The Methodist Church established this center to minister to the Croatians early in the last century. Since then the Neighborhood House has ministered to the waves of immigrants and poor in East St. Louis. It is one of the few remaining institutions in East St. Louis offering social and health services. May God bless & multiply your gifts!

Aging is God's Beautiful
Reminder That This Is Not
Our Home...

OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN

PHILIPPIANS 3:20



WOW Crafts have been meeting on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. Beginning on Thursday, July 16th, THURSDAYS at 9:00 a.m. will be added to the work each week. We want to have the crafts completed in time! Please, join us!!

Needlecraft Nights!

**@ St. Paul United Methodist Church
10 N. Center Street, East Alton**

**Are you interested in learning how to knit, crochet,
embroider, sew, quilt, etc.?**

Maybe you know how to do some of these, but can't find the "time" at home to refine your skills.

Maybe you have been "crafting" for a long time and would love to find a few friends to visit with while you work with your hands.

We are planning on opening the church on the
2nd and 4th Wednesday evenings
every month starting in May
from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

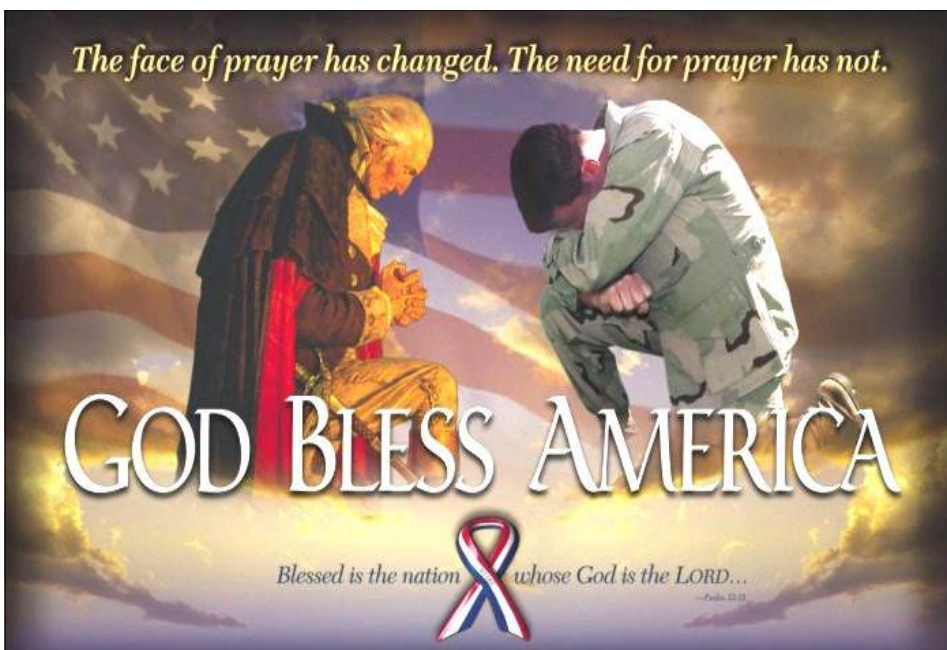
to provide an opportunity for you to learn new skills or to hone the skills you already have started to develop.

If you have one, bring your project, or let us help you find a craft you will enjoy and we will supply the starting items needed! **Questions?? Call 618-259-5210!**



A special day for:
Ruth Rawson

Sunday, July 12th 🌀 **1:00-3:00 p.m.**
@St. Paul UMC, 10 N. Center St.
East Alton, IL (no gifts, please)



Happy Independence Day!!





CONTINUOUS FOOD DRIVE: The Outreach Ministry Team will keep a “Food Drive” going. If you can, whenever you shop, get a few extra non-perishables to bring to church for us to give to the food pantries! (**Suggestions:** Mayonnaise, Can Opener, Oil, Powdered Milk, Milk/Oat Milk/Almond Milk/Coconut Milk – kind that is non-refrigerated until opened, Coffee, Peanut Butter, Crackers, Tea Bags, Salt & Pepper, Spaghetti Sauce in a Can or Plastic Jar, Pasta, Canned Vegetables or Meats, Ketchup & Mustard, Spices, Sugar, Cereal, Tuna Fish, Rice, Flour, Dish Detergent, Hand Lotion, Rolls of Paper Towel, Boxes of Facial Tissues, etc.)
You are awesome! Thank you!!



**THE 2026 FLOWER CHART HAS BEEN POSTED!
 KEEP FILLING IN THE DATES! THANK YOU!**

2026 ALTAR FLOWER INFORMATION:

- July 5:** by **Susan Voorhees Chapman** in memory of **Tom & Ruth Voorhees' Wedding Anniversary.**
July 12: by **Phyllis Hill, Larry Bryan, Terry Sitze, Betty Sitze** in memory of **Stanley & Jean Sitze.**
July 19: by **Tracy Franks** in remembrance of **Lute & Doloros Taulbee's Wedding Anniversary.**
July 26: by **Tom & Karen Martin** in memory of **George Tappy.**



JULY OFFICE HOURS (may be subject to change):

(ALSO, IT IS POSTED ON THE CHURCH OFFICE DOOR)

July 6-7,13-14,20-21,27-28 = 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

July 1,8,15,22,29 = Office Closed for regular Wednesday weekday off

July 2,9-10,16-17,23-24,30-31 = 10:00a.m. to 2 or 3:00p.m.

→ **ON July 3 OFFICE CLOSED FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY!**

→ **ON July 9 OUT FROM 11:15a.m. to 1:00p.m. FOR LUNCH MEETING AWAY.**



2026 STEWARDSHIP

→ **REMEMBER YOUR GIVING!**

...to keep the ministry of St. Paul UMC growing;
 a ministry which is needed now more than ever! Thank you!!



Children's Church begins at the start of our 8:45a.m. Worship Service. Into the beginning of the service we have a **Children's Moment.**

A variety of activities are then held in the Children's Church room or outside after the Children's Moment...as this may look different once we are outside for worship! See you on Sundays!

This is currently for children ages 5-10 years old.

WE HOPE YOU ARE AS EXCITED AS WE ARE!!

IMPORTANT: A lot of work will need to be done on our parking lot in the year or so ahead! A large chunk of it needs to be replaced. If you would like to donate to this work, **designate any amount (small or large) to: PARKING LOT WORK** and it will be held to pay for the work as it happens... Thank you for any extra you want to give!

-The Trustees-



Instead of focusing so much on a To Do List, I'm starting a To Be List.

Things I Want To Be:

Happy
Calm
Loving
Healthy
Awesome

